

## Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for improving data request response times in telecommunications networks by utilizing memory local to each network management system (NMS) client to store identifiers corresponding to  
5 network device managed objects. NMS clients include at least one managed object identifier with each data request sent to an NMS server to allow the NMS server to quickly locate and return required data to the NMS client. The NMS server may first quickly search its local memory using the identifier and/or the NMS server may quickly retrieve the required data from a network device using the identifier. In one  
10 embodiment, data is stored in a database within the network device and the identifier is used as a primary key to provide absolute context within the database. Thus, instead of navigating through a hierarchy of tables within the database, the NMS server is able to use the identifier as a primary key to directly retrieve the specific data needed. Providing the identifier from the NMS client to the NMS server  
15 ensures that for each data request the primary key is available to the NMS server even if the corresponding data has been overwritten in or deleted from the NMS server's local memory.

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